

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

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N I N E T Y - S I X T H    L E G I S L A T U R E

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1565**

S. P. 633

In Senate, September 21, 1954

Referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Weeks of Cumberland.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-FOUR

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**AN ACT Relating to Registers of Deeds.**

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows :

**Sec. 1. Payment of money ratified and approved.** All payments of sums of money made prior to the effective date of this act to registers of deeds, by their respective counties, for making revised indexes under provisions of law, are hereby ratified and approved.

**Sec. 2. Compensation.** The sums above mentioned shall be in full compensation for the performance of all official duties and no other fees or compensation shall be allowed them, except as provided under provisions of law. All registers except in the western district of Oxford county shall devote their entire time to the duties of the office. They shall account quarterly under oath to the county treasurers for all fees received by them or payable to them by virtue of the office, specifying the items, and shall pay the whole amount of the same to the treasurers or their respective counties quarterly on the 15th days of January, April, July and October of each year. They may make abstracts and copies from the records and furnish the same to persons calling for them and may charge a reasonable fee for such service, but shall not give an opinion upon the title to real

estate. Fees charged by them for abstracts and copies shall be retained by them and not paid to the county.

**Sec. 3. Records; index.** The records in each registry office shall be made on a paper of firm texture, well sized and finished, the principal ingredient of which is linen. The registers shall make an alphabetical index to the records without charge to the county, in the form known as ledger index, so that the same surnames shall be recorded together in each column of index, or in lieu of such book shall make a suitable card index. All indexes made under the provisions of this section shall show in addition to the names of the parties and the nature of the instrument, the date of the instrument, the date of its record and the name of the city, town or unincorporated place where the land conveyed is situated.

As often as every 10 years the register shall revise and consolidate such index in such manner that all deeds recorded since the last revision of the index shall be so indexed that the same surnames shall appear together and all names in alphabetical order.

Such revised and consolidated index shall contain all data as to each and every such deed or other instrument, as is above set forth. For this work the register shall receive a reasonable compensation to be approved by the county commissioners of the respective counties and drawn from the county treasury, in addition to his salary as provided by law.

When the work of the register in the preparation of the revised index, consists only of supervision and direction of clerks paid by the county, the register shall be paid not less than 2 cents per line of index revised under his supervision and direction.

When the register labors himself on the revised index in addition to supervising and directing the work of assistants, he shall be paid not less than 5 cents per line of index revised with his labor, supervision and direction. All sums due to registers of deeds hereunder from the respective counties shall be paid on statements rendered by them monthly.

Whenever for any cause it may become necessary to revise, renew or replace any index, the new volume shall be made in conformity with the provisions hereof.

**Sec. 4. Repealing and amending clause.** All acts and resolves or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended to conform to the provisions of this act.

**Sec. 5. Effective date.** The provisions of this act shall become effective January 3, 1955.